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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 003631

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

President Bush: We are proud to be Turkey's friend -
Hurriyet
Erdogan to Bush: Crush the PKK - Hurriyet
PKK issue remains unresolved - Milliyet
Istanbul capital of the world - Hurriyet
NATO will call Islamic countries for cooperation against
terror - Milliyet
5 Requests, 5 Answers - Sabah
FM Gul: "Bush Did Not Request Anything" - Sabah
Istanbul was Secure and Quiet - Sabah
Bush Passed the Ball to New Iraq Administration on PKK -
Sabah
Not Good Enough Mr. Bush - Posta
Security Check by the Dogs - Posta
Powell Intervenes on behalf of the Turkish Hostages - Posta

INTELLECTUAL/OPINION MAKER

Bush declines making promises - Cumhuriyet
Bush renews promise on concrete steps for PKK - Referans
US words, but not deeds - Radikal
Ankara says 'No' to conditional US loan - Yeni Safak
NATO flag for Iraq - Cumhuriyet
Istanbul ready for NATO guests - Yeni Safak
Bush meets religious leaders - Yeni Safak
Laura Bush likes Turkish coffee - Referans

BRIEFING

President Bush visits Ankara: Papers report that at his meeting with PM Erdogan, President Bush placed responsibility for removing the PKK presence in northern Iraq on the new Iraqi administration. Bush drew parallels between Al-Qaida and the PKK. However, President Bush did not elaborate on the method and timing for elimination of the PKK threat. The Turkish side said it was not willing to accept a longstanding \$8.5 billion loan due to the loan's condition blocking Ankara from taking unilateral military action in northern Iraq. Both sides agreed to suspend the loan. Ankara also asked Bush for direct US flights to northern Cyprus in this tourism season. President Bush said a US package on Cyprus would be announced soon. Ankara asked Bush that Kirkuk not be left to one single ethnic group. President Bush said that the US and Turkey were in agreement on the future of Iraq. Bush gave a concrete message on the EU, and promised to do everything possible to see that the EU gives Turkey a date for entry talks. Erdogan thanked Bush for US support on EU accession. President Bush declined to respond to an American journalist's question on the three Turks kidnapped in Iraq. Following his meeting with Erdogan, Bush visited Ataturk's mausoleum. After laying a wreath at Ataturk's tomb, Bush wrote in the book of honor that he shares the deep respect of the Turkish nation for Ataturk. After meeting with President Bush at Cankaya Palace, President Sezer expressed Turkey's expectation that the US would work to eliminate the terrorist PKK organization from the region as soon as possible. Sezer noted that bilateral relations with the US should be further improved. Sezer expressed hope that Bush's visit would yield positive results and contribute to regional peace and security. Sezer also expressed Turkey's expectation that U.S.-Turkish relations should not be negatively affected by 'hostile' parties. President Sezer thanked the U.S. administration for its support of Turkey's EU membership and its efforts on the Cyprus issue.

Turks abducted in Iraq: Al-Zarkawi militants abducted three Turks in Iraq, and threatened to behead them if Turkish companies do not leave Iraq in 72 hours. They also urged the Turkish people to hold mass protests against President Bush's visit to Turkey. Secretary Powell said in Ankara

that they were working for the release of Turks.

EDITORIAL OPINION: POTUS Visit & NATO Summit

"Expectations from the NATO Summit"

Ferai Tinc commented in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (5/28): "The US-EU summit set the scene for the Istanbul summit. NATO is developing a new identity based on the emerging needs of the post-Cold War era. The Istanbul summit is going to define this identity. The new identity not only brings a variety of military and political missions to NATO, but also requires a greater contribution from the alliance's members. As proven by the Afghanistan experience, the fight against terrorism requires NATO to assume both military and political roles and to increase its contribution of finance and supplies. ... President Bush expects to achieve collaboration between the US and Europe, particularly on Iraq. That means NATO intervention in Iraq, which has been a goal of Washington for some time. John Kerry has been accusing Bush of alienating the US in the international arena. If NATO action in Iraq materializes, President Bush will be able to gain an important advantage in the upcoming elections against Kerry."

"Enough of being a good boy"

Gungor Mengi argued in the mass appeal "Vatan" (5/28): "The NATO summit is the venue where the alliance is to redefine itself. Terrorism is a major issue at the summit, which brings Turkey to the frontline. The redefinition of NATO will certainly bring some consequences with it, such as the fact that the Turkish 3rd Army Corps has already become a NATO army and it is quite possible soon to be called for duty in Afghanistan. Turkey, among all the NATO members, is the closest one to the 'fire.' Now is the time for us to stand up and make our dignified presence in the alliance felt. Being a good boy is not a bad thing, but we should not be a stupid boy! ... Both Sezer and Erdogan brought up the PKK issue to President Bush and complained about unmet U.S. commitments. President Bush, in return, noted the transfer of authority to the Iraqi government and talked about cooperation with the new government on this issue. This is not a respectful answer to Turkey's sensitivity, and not a realistic answer either. UNSC resolution 1546 leaves the security issue in the hands of coalition forces. Bush has been fooling Turkey on the fight against the PKK for the past 12 months and now he simply cannot say 'this is not my issue any more.' One wonders if the Bush administration plans to use the PKK issue as a trump card to establish a relationship between Turkey and the Iraqi government. If that is the real intention, it is risky and very bad."

"A Shadow Summit"

Erdal Safak commented in the mass appeal "Sabah" (6/28): "The broader NATO Summit in Istanbul shelters another summit: the EU summit. Istanbul hosts 19 of the 25 heads of state from the EC. When ever again will we find so many EU leaders together? I really wish the Turkish government had squeezed into the NATO summit a meeting with EU leaders in order to present the reform packages and their implementation in Turkey. I wish it were possible to extend the leaders' stay one extra day to take them for a tour of the roots of Europe and the cradle of the Christianity. However, we still consider the Istanbul summit as a diplomatic good omen. In November 1999, one month after the OSCE summit in Istanbul, during the EU's Helsinki summit, Turkey was given full OSCE membership. We believe that five and half months after the NATO summit, during another EU summit, the doors will open for Turkey."

"June Without People"

Yasemin Congar opined in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (6/28): "Recently, wherever President Bush has traveled, the same measures were adopted as we have seen in Ankara and Istanbul. Roads were closed to the people. In Istanbul, we found ourselves in a NATO valley that is closed to the public. The June series of summits, which will end with the Istanbul summit, sends the world the message that the conflict between the US and Europe over Iraq has been overcome and that the NATO alliance has started to coordinate again, including by putting the broader Middle East on its agenda. However, the success is rather narrow. Even after 16 months, stability and security has not been established in Iraq. And the violent threat against three Turkish hostages limits the success even more. Yesterday, during Bush's visit to Ankara, the Turkish media stayed away from the Turkish hostage issue. Terrorism was not eliminated by the process that started after 9/11 and was broadened by the Iraq War. Another unsuccessful aspect of the June series of summits is that in his travels the President did not find people meeting and greeting him warmly. Within this framework, President Bush's half-day Ankara visit did not meet Turkey's expectations. Other than US support for Turkey's EU accession, our expectations on the issues of PKK and Cyprus were not fulfilled. Bush left Ankara without telling the officials anything new, without making any new gestures, without taking any questions from

the press, and without making himself visible to the public."

EDELMAN